news room in Delhi, introduction of running scroll during news bulletins, increasing number of news bulletins by Regional News Units, etc.

Upgradation of AIR and DD Network in NER

819. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the special package for upgradation of AIR and DD network in the NER indicating the outlay, item-wise and year-wise, the amount actually utilized and the achievements made during the Ninth Plan and proposed during the remaining period of the Tenth Plan;

(b) the implementation status of the declaration made to create a separate administrative zone for NER; and

(c) the present status and target set for enhancement of the height of TV transmission tower at Dibrugarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Special package for expansion and improvement of AIR and Doordarshan services in North East Region and Island territories was approved in principle by the Government in October, 2001. The details of the schemes approved by the EFC are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below) Provisions of Rs. 170.55 crores and Rs. 380.55 crores have been kept for AIR and Doordarshan respectively in the 10th Plan for the schemes to be implemented under Phase-II of the Special North East Package, which is yet to be approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC).

(b) A separate North East Zone was created by setting up a small office with limited staff in a rented building in Guwahati. A Chief Engineer has also been posted in Guwahati. Budget has been provided for the establishment of North East Zonal Office.

(c) The work for enhancement of height of RCC-cum-steel tower at Dibrugarh had been tendered with wide publicity, but no response was received., The feasibility of increasing the tower height in all steel frame has been examined in consultation with IIT, Cheenai, which has confirmed the alternative proposal and finalized the design. The work will be retendered. It would take about two years for the work to be completed, after its award.

Statement

Schemes of AIR and Doordarshan approved by EFC

Sl. No.	Scheme	Approved cost (Rs. in crores)	Exp. Incurred during 2002-03 (Rs. in crores)
	DOORDARSHAN		
1.	Cable head ends in 160 villages	7.15	7.12
2.	Upgradation of 5 HPTs	22.7	9.73
3.	Satellite earth stations at Aizwal and Shillong	15.02	7.84
4.	Satellite video phones	1.65	1.81
	ALL INDIA RADIO		
1.	10 KW FM Tr. & stereo studio facilities at Itanagar.	6.10	1.85
2.	Upgradation of existing uplink facilities at Itanagar.		
3.	Upgradation of existing uplink facilities at Guwahati.	6.00	3.05
4.	Upgradation of existing uplink facilities at Shillong.		
5.	10 KW FM Tr. & stereo studio facilities at Kohima.	6.10	0.12
6.	10 KW FM Tr. & stereo studio facilities at Port Blair.	6.60	1.74

63 cable head ends have already been commissioned. Satellite videophones have been procured and are in use. The remaining projects are at different stages of implementation and are expected to be completed by end of 2003-04. Full package is yet to be approved by the competent authority.

Telugu TV serials

820. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any information has been received on the depicition of witchcraft blackmailing and various illegal activities as normal in some of the Telugu serials;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to arrange for a survey of such trends, if any, in the Telugu TV serials; and

(c) the action taken so far to curb this practice?